

Remarks/Arguments

The Examiner is sincerely thanked for his review of the present case.

Claim 1 has been amended. Claims 2-20 have been added. The amendment to claim 1 and the addition of claims 2-20 do not add any new matter and are fully supported in the specification as filed (see, for example, Figs. 8 and 9 and the discussions associated with those figures).

It is respectfully submitted that Chu (USP 5,530,645, herein "Chu") does not disclose or suggest the features in amended claims 1 and new claim 18. For example, with respect to amended claim 1, Chu does not disclose the feature of ascertaining at one of the intermediate nodes whether the arriving stream of data is already compressed and compressing the arriving stream of data using an intermediate node in the manner claimed. Additionally or alternatively, Chu does not disclose or suggest the feature of ascertaining whether the destination node has a decompression engine, and the feature of decompressing the compressed data packets at a downstream intermediate node if the destination node does not have the decompression engine in the manner claimed..

With respect to newly added claim 18, Chu does not disclose the feature of ascertaining at one of the intermediate nodes whether the arriving stream of data is already compressed and compressing the arriving stream of data using an intermediate node in the manner claimed. Additionally or alternatively, Chu does not disclose or suggest the feature of ascertaining whether the destination NIC has a decompression engine, and the feature of decompressing the compressed data packets at a downstream intermediate node if the destination node does not have the decompression engine. Additionally or alternatively, Chu does not disclose or suggest the feature of marking the compressed data packets to ensure that the compression/decompression cycle only occurs once as the data packets traverse between the source NIC and the destination NIC.

For these reasons and others, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 1 as amended and newly added claim 18 are novel, nonobvious, and patentable over Chu. Claims 2-17 and 19-20 depend from independent claims 1 and 18 and recite other patentable features. These claims 2-17 and 19-20 are also novel, nonobvious, and patentable not only due to their

dependence from the patentable parent claims but also due to their recitation of independently patentable features.

In view of the foregoing, Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. If any additional petition is required to facilitate the entry of this amendment, please consider this communication a petition therefore. A three-month petition for extension of time is respectfully solicited, the fee for which for a small entity in the amount of \$510 is included herewith. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment Deposit Account No. 50-2284 (Order No. ANTA P002).

Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

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Respectfully submitted,

/Joseph A. Nguyen/

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